

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus for ~~determining occurrence of a failure~~suppressing an alarm from being generated due to a failure in an optical transport network (OTN) ~~that is adapted to be associated with~~connected to synchronous communication equipment, the synchronous communication equipment forming at least one component in a synchronous communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a failure indication detector operative to detect a failure indication pattern generated only in response to a failure occurring in the OTN; and

a correlating unit adapted to be operatively associated with said failure indication detector and said synchronous communication equipment, ~~and adapted to suppress~~the correlating unit suppressing a Loss-of-Frame (LOF) alarm in said synchronous communication equipment in response to receiving both an indication that said failure indication pattern has been detected at the failure indication detector and ~~receiving a~~ LOF defect (dLOF) indication from said synchronous communication equipment.

2. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~and~~ wherein said failure indication detector is comprised in said synchronous communication equipment.

3. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~and~~, wherein said synchronous communication equipment comprises an aligner, and said correlating unit receives said dLOF indication from said aligner.

4. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 3, ~~and~~ wherein said aligner is operative to generate said dLOF indication in response to an incorrect synchronous frame alignment signal (FAS).

5. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~and~~ wherein said incorrect synchronous FAS is declared when the aligner does not detect a valid synchronous FAS within a predetermined time period.

6. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~and~~ wherein said correlating unit is operative to provide to an element management system (EMS) associated with the synchronous communication equipment a failure determination indication, said failure determination

indication being used by the EMS to suppress the LOF alarm in the synchronous communication equipment.

7. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~and~~ wherein said indication of detection of said failure indication pattern comprises the failure indication pattern.

8. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 7, ~~and~~ wherein said failure indication pattern comprises a PN-11 sequence.

9. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus according to claim 8, ~~and~~ wherein said PN-11 sequence is characterized by a polynomial of the type $1 + x^9 + x^{11}$.

10. **(Currently Amended)** Synchronous communication equipment operative in a synchronous communication network,
said equipment comprising:

a failure indication detector operative to detect a failure indication pattern generated only in response to a failure occurring in ~~the~~ an optical transport network OTN operatively associated with the synchronous communication network;

an aligner operative to generate a Loss-of-Frame defect (dLOF) indication only in response to said failure occurring in the OTN; and

a correlating unit operatively associated with said failure indication detector and said aligner, and operative to suppress a Loss-of-Frame (LOF) alarm in the synchronous communication equipment in response to receiving both an indication that said failure indication pattern has been detected from the failure indication detector and the dLOF indication from the aligner.

11. **(Currently Amended)** Synchronous communication equipment according to claim 10, ~~and~~ further comprising an element management system (EMS) operatively associated with the correlating unit and operative to receive from the correlating unit a failure determination indication in response to reception at the correlating unit of said indication of detection of said failure indication pattern and said dLOF indication, and to employ said failure determination indication to suppress the LOF alarm in the synchronous communication equipment.

12. **(Currently Amended)** An optical communication network comprising:

an optical transport network (OTN) comprising an OTN element in which a failure indication generator is operative to generate a failure indication pattern only in response to a failure occurring in the OTN; and

synchronous communication equipment network operatively ~~associated with~~ connected to said OTN element, and comprising a the synchronous communication equipment, the synchronous communication equipment comprising:

a failure indication detector operative to detect said failure indication pattern; and

a correlating unit operatively associated with said failure indication detector and operative to suppress a Loss-of-Frame (LOF) alarm in the synchronous communication equipment in response to receiving both an indication that said failure indication pattern has been detected from the failure indication detector and a LOF defect (dLOF) indication from said synchronous communication equipment.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method for ~~determining~~ suppressing an alarm for being generated due to a failure in an optical transport network (OTN) that is ~~associated with~~ connected to a synchronous communication equipment network, the synchronous communication network comprising a synchronous communication equipment, the method comprising:

detecting a failure indication pattern which is
generated only in response to a failure occurring in the OTN;
providing an indication of detection of said failure
indication pattern and a Loss-of-Frame defect (dLOF)
indication from said synchronous communication network; and
suppressing a LOF alarm in said synchronous
communication equipment in response to said providing.